

## ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are disclosed which allow for the recovery from errors in read data of a disk drive to be recovered in an adaptive error recovery routine. In one embodiment, a disk drive is provided which has an error memory which has error memory elements. Each memory element is used to record an error type and recovery for each error recovered from the disk drive. If another error is detected that is of the same type and which is in a location close to a recorded error, the error recovery step used for the previous error is attempted for the new error. If the previous error recovery is not successful, the disk drive continues to attempt to recover the error using an existing error recovery table, and omits the error recovery step which was originally tried when going through the error recovery table. In one embodiment, the error recovery table is reordered such that the disk drive attempts an error recovery which is believed most likely to recover an error before trying other error recovery steps contained in the error recovery table.